

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 relates to an electrophotographic photoreceptor. **New Claim 49** claims that the electrophotographic photoreceptor is suitable for a reverse developing method in an electrophotographic image forming apparatus which comprises a contact charger.

Claim 10 relates to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising a **developing device which reversely develops** the electrostatic latent image. **New Claim 50** claims that the charging device is a **contact charger**.

Claim 20 relates to an electrophotographic process cartridge. **New Claim 51** relates to the electrophotographic process cartridge, wherein said charging device is present and is a **contact charger**. **New Claim 52** relates to the electrophotographic process cartridge, wherein said developing device which reversely develops the electrostatic latent image is present.

Claim 29 relates to an electrophotographic image forming method in which the **electrostatic latent image is reversely developed**. **New Claim 53** relates to the electrophotographic image forming method, wherein the photoreceptor is charged using a **contact charger**.

It is the Examiners' opinion that it would have been obvious to use the aluminum drum of Kutami et al as the electroconductive substrate in JP'998, or JP'890. However, JP'998, or JP'890 do not want to change their electro-conductive substrate is as they are not concerned with improving the properties of the electro-conductive substrate. However, even if Kutami et al was combined with JP'998, or JP'890, the present invention cannot result.

It is described in the Examples of Kutami et al that "clear images were obtained free from the deposition of the toner particles on the background," wherein the images were produced using a scorotron charger using a normal (posi-posi) developing method for the copying machine because a halogen lamp was used for forming an electrostatic image.

When a photoreceptor having Kutami's aluminum drum is used for a copying machine using **a contact charging roller and/or a reverse developing method**, abnormal images such as black spot images and background fouling are easily formed because of leaking of a potential of a portion of the photoreceptor corresponding to the joint of the aluminum drum because the charger is contacted with the photoreceptor. As a result, abnormal images such as black spot images and background fouling are formed on the leaking portion because a reverse developing method is used.

In view of the above, the rejections of record should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



J. Derek Mason, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 35,270

Customer Number
22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220

Kirsten A. Grueneberg
Registration Number 47,297